



CHIEF JUSTICE CHERI BEASLEY

RESTORING TRUST & CONFIDENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA'S COURTS

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- SCHOOL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS
- EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION
 - FAITH AND JUSTICE ALLIANCE
 - DRIVER'S LICENSE RESTORATION PROJECT
- SECOND CHANCE ACT IMPLEMENTATION



SCHOOL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS

The Problem:

- 40% of referrals to juvenile justice come from schools
- Most (90%) are minor, nonviolent offenses.
- Disproportionate Impact: youth of color are 2.5 times more likely to be referred to juvenile court and 1.5 times more likely to be placed in secure confinement
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out, repeat a grade, and engage in future delinquent conduct.
- A single suspension can triple the likelihood that a student will enter the juvenile justice system.

www.nccourts.gov/programs/school-justice-partnership



SCHOOL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS

SJPs work to reduce suspensions, expulsions, and referrals to court by focusing on restorative justice, trauma-informed practices, and de-escalation.

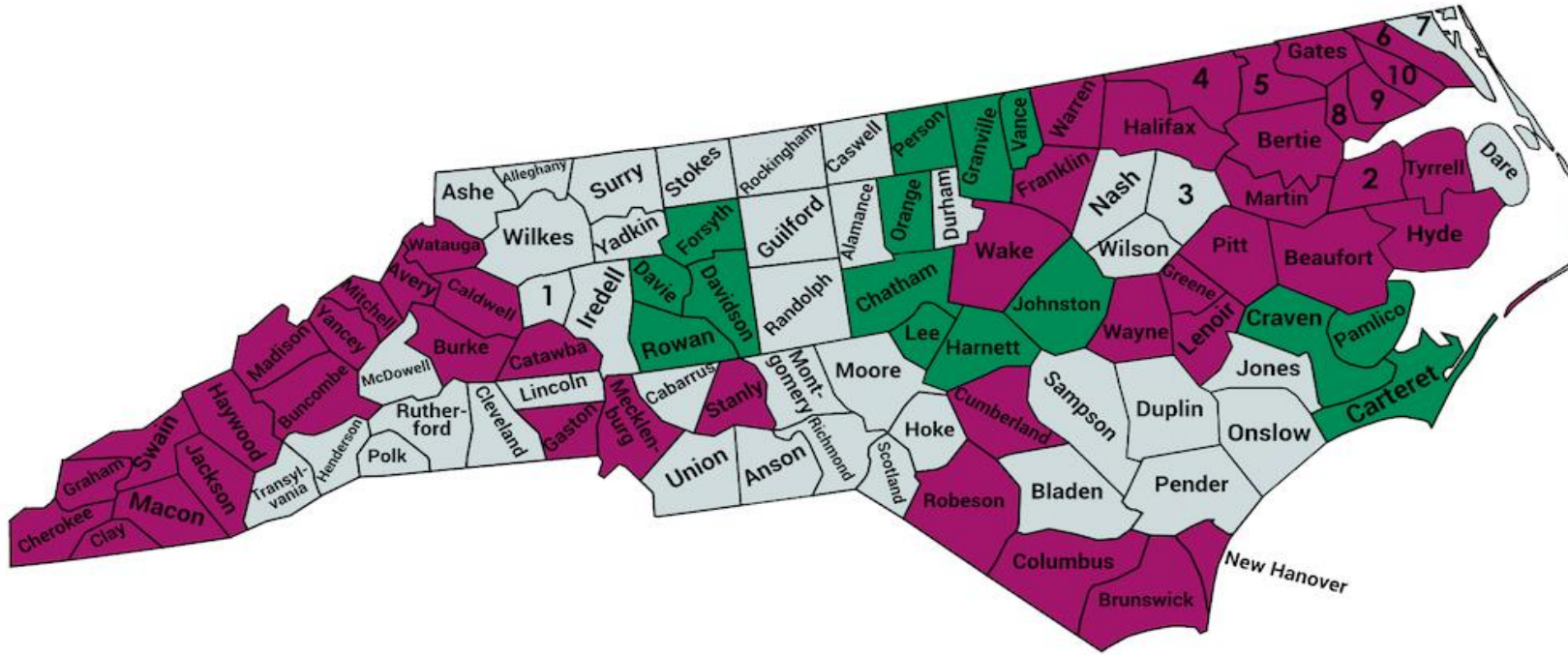
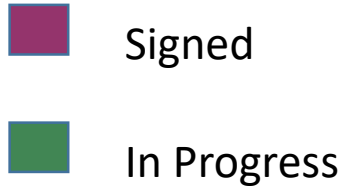
New Hanover County – North Carolina's First

Chief District Court Judge Jay Corpening

More than 60% reduction in referrals to court in 2 years



SCHOOL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS



- 1 Alexander
- 2 Washington
- 3 Edgcombe
- 4 Northampton
- 5 Hertford
- 6 Camden
- 7 Currituck
- 8 Chowan
- 9 Perquimans
- 10 Pasquotank

37 Added Since May 2019



EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

- NC Pro Bono Resource Center
- Disaster Relief & Preparedness
- COVID-19 Frontline Health Planning Initiative
- COVID-19 Small Business/Non-Profit Initiative
- Faith and Justice Alliance
- Driver's License Restoration Project
- [NCFairChance.org](https://www.ncfairchance.org)



FAITH AND JUSTICE ALLIANCE



“Solving the access to justice gap is our moral obligation and an obligation of the faith community. Faith and justice must walk hand in hand to serve our communities. Working together we can ensure that all people have access to justice.”

— Cheri Beasley, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of North Carolina and Chair of the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission



FAITH AND JUSTICE ALLIANCE

- Build partnership between local faith and legal communities
- Provide training for faith leaders in legal issue spotting
- Provide basic legal education through faith organizations
- Recruit and train pro bono attorneys
- Direct service through legal clinics held in places of worship



FAITH AND JUSTICE ALLIANCE



NORTH CAROLINA
PRO BONO
RESOURCE CENTER

Pursuing Justice Through Service

A Program of the
North Carolina Equal Access to
Justice Commission

Driver's License Suspension and Restoration in NC

ncprobono.org | [@ncprobono](https://twitter.com/ncprobono)

Leigh Wicclair | leigh@ncprobono.org



DRIVER'S LICENSE RESTORATION

§ 20-24.1 (a) Revocation for failure to appear or pay fine, penalty or costs for motor vehicle offenses.

The Division **must** revoke the driver's license of a person . . . charged with a motor vehicle offense and he:

- (1) failed to appear, after being notified to do so, when the case was called for a trial or hearing; or
- (2) failed to pay a fine, penalty, or court costs ordered by the court.

1,225,000 North Carolinians with driver's license
suspensions — 15% of all adult drivers in the state.

827,000 for failure to appear
263,000 for failure to pay
135,000 for both

Average suspension:
8.5 years



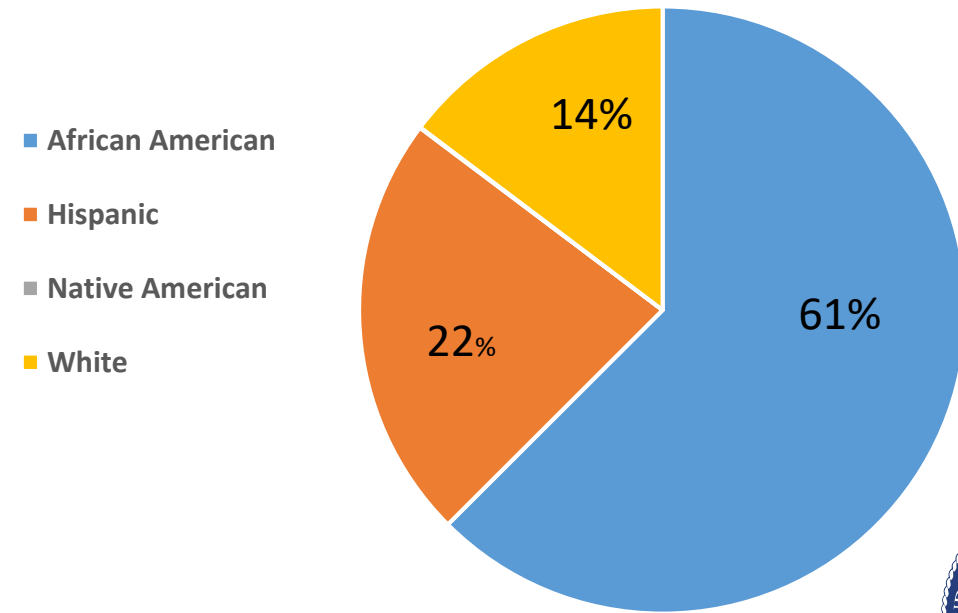
DRIVER'S LICENSE RESTORATION

Dramatic Impact

- “I get up at 5 am and walk 3 hours to work.”
- “I can’t pick up my kids from school on time.”
- “I lost my job.”
- “I pay Uber and bus about \$150 weekly.”
- “I am unable to take my elderly mother to her doctor appointments.”
- “Limits my ability to make doctor appointments.”
- “It is harder to find a job.”
- “The bus adds 2 hours to my commute each way.”

Disproportionate Impact

Durham County: License Suspensions for Failure to Pay by Race



Mass Relief

§15A-1363

Prosecutor may petition to remit fees.

Court may remit if **the proper administration of justice requires resolution of the case**



Rely on

District Attorney partners willing to motion for relief



Utilize

Data from the AOC to identify who qualifies based on the DA's criteria



Engage

Pro Bono Attorneys to screen records, prepare motions, and draft advice letters



DRIVER'S LICENSE MASS RELIEF

District Attorneys have sought relief on behalf of thousands of people with long term license suspensions pursuant to NCGS § 15A-1363.

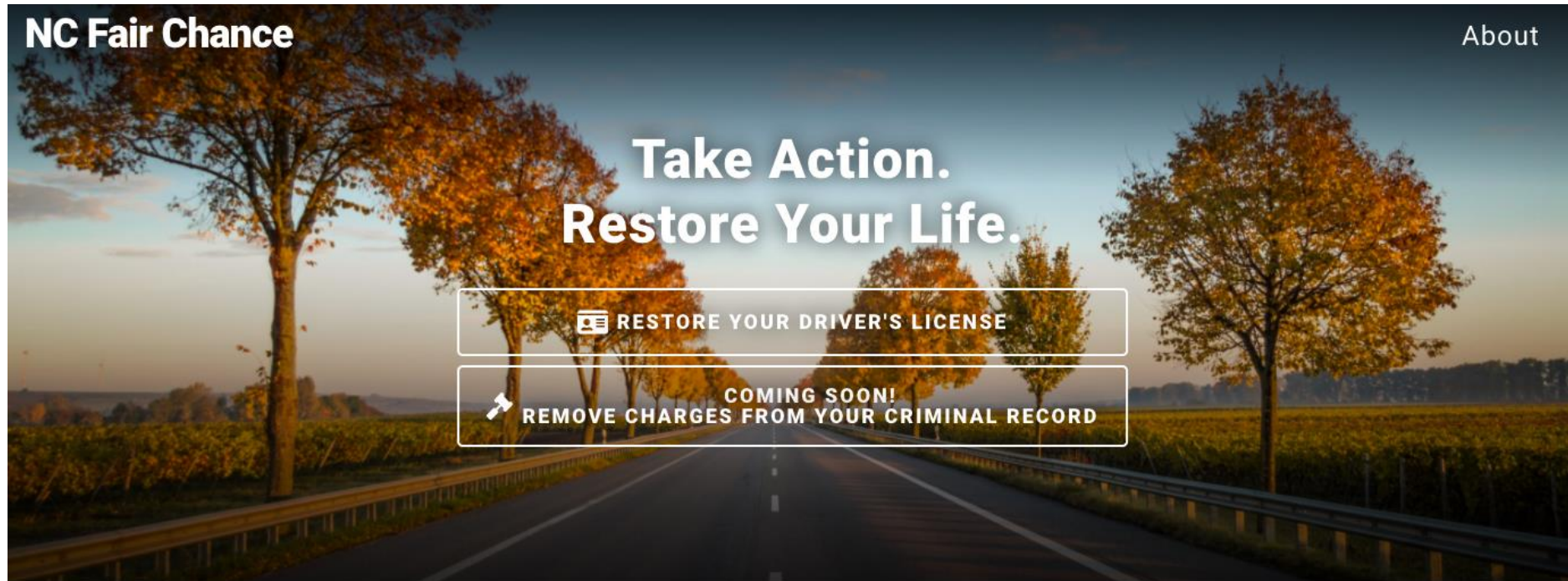
| Completed | In Progress | To Come |
|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Pitt | Durham | Buncombe |
| New Hanover | Guilford | Robeson |
| Pender | Vance | |
| Mecklenburg | Rockingham | |
| | Caswell | |

\$2.57 million in traffic court debt eliminated in 2019 for 9,168 people in Durham, Guilford, Mecklenburg, and Vance counties.

More than 30,000 licenses could be restored in Robeson county alone.




NCFAIRCHANCE.ORG


A screenshot of the NC Fair Chance website banner. The background is a scenic image of a road lined with trees with autumn foliage. The text "NC Fair Chance" is in the top left, and "About" is in the top right. The main heading "Take Action. Restore Your Life." is centered. Below it are two buttons: "RESTORE YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE" with a license icon and "COMING SOON! REMOVE CHARGES FROM YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD" with a key icon.

NC Fair Chance

About

**Take Action.
Restore Your Life.**

 **RESTORE YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE**

 **COMING SOON!
REMOVE CHARGES FROM YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD**

Getting you safely back on the road and back to work!



SECOND CHANCE ACT IMPLEMENTATION

Raise the Age Parity Relief Second Chance Act (S.L. 2020-35)

Eligible Offenses:

- Any H or I felony or misdemeanor;
- 16 or 17 at time of offense;
- Committed prior to Dec 1, 2019;
- All terms of sentence completed, including restitution

Excludes:

- Motor vehicle offenses;
- Offenses requiring registration as a sex offender



Mass Relief

ESTIMATED ELIGIBILITY

420,000+ convictions
290,000+ people



Rely on

District Attorney partners willing to motion for relief



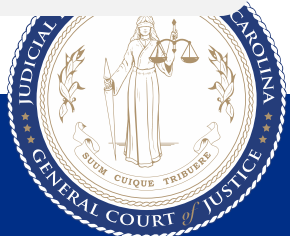
Utilize

Data from the AOC to identify who qualifies based on the DA's criteria



Engage

Pro Bono Attorneys to screen records, prepare motions, and draft advice letters



SECOND CHANCE ACT IMPLEMENTATION

| PARTICIPATING COUNTIES | | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Caswell | Granville | Person |
| Chatham | Mecklenburg | Robeson |
| Durham | New Hanover | Rockingham |
| Forsyth | Orange | Vance |
| Franklin | Pender | Warren |





THANK YOU

Contact Name and Info
Email, phone, info, etc.